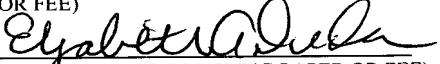


"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL  
 NUMBER EV 332038805 US  
 DATE OF 19 August 2003  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS  
 BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES  
 POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO  
 ADDRESSEE" SERVICE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10 ON THE  
 DATE INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO  
 MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION; COMMISSIONER  
 OF PATENTS; P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Elizabeth A. Dudek  
 (TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON MAILING  
 PAPER OR FEE)  
  
 (SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of )  
 Jean-Claude Lancien )  
 Title: A SPACER FOR PUTTING INTO )  
 PLACE ON A TUBULAR ELEMENT )  
 Serial No.: *Not Assigned* )  
 Filed On: *Herewith* ) (Our Docket No. 6980-01)

Hartford, Connecticut, August 19, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

Attached hereto is Form PTO-1449 listing documents believed  
 relevant to the subject application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner  
 consider these documents and an initialed copy of the form be returned to the  
 undersigned.

This disclosure statement should not be construed as a  
 representation that a search has been made or that no other material information

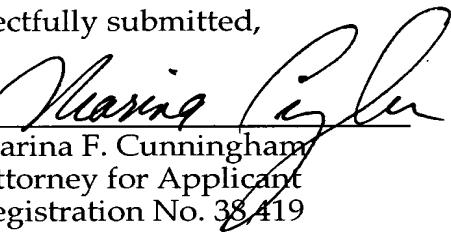
as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (a) exists. In addition, the cited documents are not necessarily analogous art.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98 and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures § 609. If for some reason, the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the Applicants' representative be called so that any deficiencies can be remedied.

Applicant believes no fee is due for filing this Information Disclosure Statement. If it is determined that a fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Marina F. Cunningham  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 38419

McCormick, Paulding & Huber LLP  
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3402  
(860) 549-5290

**FORM PTO-1449**  
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S)**

Docket No.: 6980-01  
Applicant: LANCIEN et al.  
Title: A SPACER FOR PUTTING INTO  
PLACE ON A TUBULAR ELEMENT

U.S. Serial No.: NEW  
U.S. Filing Date: Herewith  
Group Art Unit: Unknown

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

<u>Examiner's Initials</u>	<u>Patent Number</u>	<u>Patent Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class Subclass</u>
_____	4,915,425	4/10/90	Hegler et al.	285/179

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

<u>Examiner's Initials</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Translation</u> <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u>
_____	1 475 841	14/05/1970	DE	Abstract
_____	2 312 417	20/09/1973	DE	Abstract
_____	3635515	28/04/1988	DE	Abstract

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

Examiner's Initials \_\_\_\_\_ English translation of French Search Report Application No. 0210442 dated May 2, 2003.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER:

Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s).